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# Selected Speeches and News Releases

March 21 - March 27, 1991

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# News Releases

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## USDA TESTING LOW-FAT BEEF FOR SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

WASHINGTON, March 21—Taste tests of new low-fat beef patties are underway in schools in six states, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced today.

“Our prompt action in buying and distributing beef patties which contain approximately 10-percent fat is part of a continuing effort to lower the fat content in school lunches,” said Betty Jo Nelsen, administrator of USDA’s Food and Nutrition Service, which administers the National School Lunch Program.

USDA provides cash and commodity support for 87,000 schools nationwide that participate in the National School Lunch Program. Currently, beef patties provided for school lunch programs average approximately 20 to 22 percent fat, which is comparable to lean ground beef available at supermarkets.

USDA purchased approximately 240,000 pounds of low-fat beef in February for distribution to pre-selected schools in Maryland, Georgia, Minnesota, Texas, Iowa and California.

A statement contained in a recent full-page ad by the National Heart Savers Association calls for the introduction of low-fat beef into schools. Contrary to the impression given, Nelsen said, the school test program shows that USDA is out front on this issue.

“The low-fat products already distributed to pilot schools include beef patties developed from Auburn University research,” she said.

“No one is more concerned than we are with healthful nutrition for the nation’s school children,” Nelsen said. “Taste tests currently underway will help us choose a product that works best in school kitchens and is most acceptable to children.

“We are working closely with schools to reduce the fat content of lunches. We are very hopeful that the current tests will allow us to expand the use of low-fat beef in schools in the future,” she said.

Phil Shanholtzer (703) 756-3286

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## SECRETARY MADIGAN ANNOUNCES 100-PERCENT SOYBEAN INK

WASHINGTON, March 21—The first newspaper printing ink made with 100-percent soybean oil is moving closer to making headlines, according to Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan.

“This announcement is of special importance on this day when Americans across this great nation are celebrating National Agriculture Day to honor our farmers and the greatest agriculture production the world has ever seen,” said Madigan. “U.S. farmers provide 250 million Americans the highest quality of food and fiber. Soy ink is one example of how their efforts go beyond traditional agricultural production.”

U.S. Department of Agriculture chemists Sevim Erhan and Marvin Bagby are the developers of the 100-percent soy oil ink. “They have run tests showing the ink is completely compatible with newspaper printing machines,” said Richard L. Dunkle. Dunkle is director of the National Center for Agricultural Utilization Research at Peoria, Ill., where both Erhan and Bagby work. The center is operated by USDA’s Agricultural Research Service.

Bagby said Erhan was hired by ARS as a post-doctoral associate to work on development of the 100-percent soy ink following a request from the American Newspaper Publishers Association.

“The ANPA wanted ARS scientists’ help in speeding up efforts to make a newspaper ink that would reduce America’s reliance on crude oil and replace petroleum-based ink with a product from a renewable resource,” he said. Bagby leads studies in oil chemical research at the Peoria center.

The ANPA began working on new oil-ink formulations in the early 1980s. But while these were up to 30-percent soybean oil, the remaining 70 percent still came from petroleum-based products and other ingredients.

Erhan and Bagby have applied for a patent on the process of making the soy oil ink. Under a cooperative research and development agreement with USDA, Flint Ink Corp. in Ann Arbor, Mich., has begun testing Erhan’s ink formulations and comparing them with the quality of conventional printing inks, but the results are not available yet.

“The newspaper industry has long awaited this type of soy ink,” said Dunkle. “We expect the industry to adopt it once it’s on the market. “Bagby and Erhan’s accomplishment is in line with the center’s objective

of finding new uses for agricultural crops grown by U.S. farmers,” Dunkle added.

If all newspaper ink were made from soy oil, it would utilize the oil from about 40 million bushels of soybeans.

Among the attributes of the new soy ink is resistance to ruboff, Bagby said. “Our ink is comparable to the best low-rub inks on the market whether made from petroleum or partial soybean oil,” he noted. “But we’re still comparing the quality with soy inks especially formulated for low-ruboff.”

Erhan said the cost of USDA’s soy ink could be lower than that of traditional newspaper inks. In addition, she said the 100-percent soy oil is easier to clean up, saving time and money on press cleaning.

Erhan’s next project is developing an ink that can be used on glossy magazine paper. “Each ink formulation is different, depending on the paper it’s used on, and each requires special adjustments to the formulation,” she said. The March 1991 issue of ARS’ monthly magazine, “Agricultural Research,” is printed in 30-percent soy oil ink.

Madigan’s home state of Illinois, the nation’s leading soybean-producing state with 355 million bushels in 1990, has already passed legislation that requires all state-funded printing jobs to use soybean ink. Similar legislation has been passed in Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin.

Linda Cooke (309) 685-4011

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## **USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET PRICE FOR UPLAND COTTON**

WASHINGTON, March 21—Under Secretary of Agriculture Richard T. Crowder today announced the prevailing world market price, adjusted to U.S. quality and location (adjusted world price), for Strict Low Middling (SLM) 1-1/16 inch (micronaire 3.5-4.9) upland cotton (base quality) and the coarse count adjustment in effect from 12:01 a.m. Friday, March 22, through midnight Thursday, March 28.

Since the adjusted world price (AWP) is above the 1989, and 1990 crop base quality loan rates of 50.00 and 50.27 cents per pound, respectively, the loan repayment rates for the 1989 and 1990 crops of

upland cotton during this period are equal to the respective loan rates for the specific quality and location.

The AWP will continue to be used to determine the value of upland cotton that is obtained in exchange for commodity certificates. Because the AWP in effect is above the established loan rate, loan deficiency payments are not available for 1990-crop upland cotton sold during this period.

Based on data for the week ending March 21, the AWP for upland cotton and the coarse count adjustment are determined as follows:

Adjusted World Price

|   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| Northern Europe Price .....             | 83.69           |
| Adjustments:                            |                 |
| Average U.S. spot market location ..... | 14.04           |
| SLM 1-1/16 inch cotton .....            | 2.15            |
| Average U.S. location .....             | 0.35            |
| Sum of Adjustments .....                | <u>-16.54</u>   |
| ADJUSTED WORLD PRICE .....              | 67.15 cents/lb. |

Coarse Count Adjustment

|  |                |
|--|----------------|
| Northern Europe Price .....              | 83.69          |
| Northern Europe Coarse Count Price ..... | <u>-78.28</u>  |
|  | 5.41           |
| Adjustment to SLM 1-inch cotton .....    | <u>-4.10</u>   |
| COARSE COUNT ADJUSTMENT .....            | 1.31 cents/lb. |

The next AWP and coarse count adjustment announcement will be made on Thursday, March 28.

Charles Cunningham (202) 447-79

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## **GREAT PLAINS WIND EROSION DOWN FROM LAST YEAR BUT STILL ABOVE AVERAGE**

WASHINGTON, March 21—Wind erosion on the Great Plains was down significantly from a year ago during the period from November through February, but still above average, a U.S. Department of Agriculture official said today.

William Richards, chief of the USDA's Soil Conservation Service, said reports from the 10-state Great Plains area indicate wind has damaged 2,801,841 acres through February, down nearly 44 percent from the 4,927,179 acres reported damaged during the same four-month period a year ago. This total is still more than 10 percent above average for the period.

“Much of this damage is due to the ongoing drought,” said Richards. “Many areas of the Great Plains continue to have insufficient cover and little residue to protect against wind erosion.”

Richards said many farmers in the Great Plains used emergency tillage—roughening the surface—to prevent erosion damage where there was enough moisture. This season more than 835,000 acres were reported to have received emergency tillage, compared with 716,000 acres last season. Nearly 17 million acres were reported in condition to blow this season, down 16 percent from the previous season. Of the total land reported damaged, 94 percent is cropland; the rest primarily rangeland.

The northern Great Plains reported 1,756,699 acres damaged, or 53 percent of the total. The southern Great Plains reported 1,045,142 acres damaged.

North Dakota reported 867,553 acres damaged, 4.5 percent less than last year's record 1,603,000 acres. Montana and Wyoming were below last year's totals by 42 percent and 68 percent respectively.

The wind erosion season extends from November through May.

**WIND EROSION DAMAGE, NOVEMBER-FEBRUARY 1991 and 1990**

**Acres Damaged**

Nov. 1990-Feb. 1991    Nov. 1989-Feb. 1990

|                 |                  |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|------------------|
| Montana         | 507,571          | 888,595          |
| Nebraska        | 91,440           | 87,550           |
| North Dakota    | 867,553          | 1,603,276        |
| South Dakota    | 170,180          | 234,190          |
| Wyoming         | 119,955          | 379,113          |
| <b>SUBTOTAL</b> | <b>1,756,699</b> | <b>3,192,724</b> |
| Colorado        | 138,330          | 263,890          |
| Oklahoma        | 49,560           | 68,250           |
| Texas           | 704,732          | 1,152,185        |
| <b>SUBTOTAL</b> | <b>1,045,142</b> | <b>1,734,455</b> |
| <b>TOTAL</b>    | <b>2,801,841</b> | <b>4,927,179</b> |

Ted Kupelian (202) 447-5776

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**MADIGAN APPOINTS PUBLIC MEMBER TO NATIONAL WATERMELON PROMOTION BOARD**

WASHINGTON, March 22—Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan today announced the appointment of Barbara Jean Brown, Stillwater, Okla., to be the public member on the 29-member National Watermelon Promotion Board.

Brown, who is a food specialist and assistant professor with Oklahoma State University, was nominated by the producer members and handler members of the board. As public member she will represent the interests of consumers on the board. Her appointment was effective Feb. 25.

Authorized under the Watermelon Research and Promotion Act of 1985, the board is comprised of 14 producer members, 14 handler

members, and one public member, appointed by the secretary of agriculture from nominations forwarded to him from seven watermelon producing districts.

The National Watermelon Promotion Board administers a national research and promotion program to increase the consumption of U.S. watermelons domestically and internationally. Assessments on watermelon producers and handlers' sales fund the board and its programs. USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service monitors operations of the board.

Carolyn Coutts (202) 447-8998

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## **TWO GEORGIA TOBACCO MARKETS DESIGNATED**

WASHINGTON, March 22—The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced the designation of Ocilla, Ga., as a USDA-monitored tobacco auction market and its merger with the currently designated market of Fitzgerald, Ga., effective for the 1991 marketing season.

In a March 11-15 mail referendum, over 86 percent of producers voting favored the merger, according to Daniel Haley, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service. The Tobacco Inspection Act of 1935 requires that at least two-thirds of the eligible tobacco growers voting must favor a referendum for it to pass.

The USDA action resulted from applications submitted by warehouse operators in the two markets. After evaluating the record of a Nov. 1, 1990 public hearing on the application, the secretary of agriculture approved the application and announced the referendum.

Formal notice of the designation and of the detailed results of the referendum will appear in a future issue of the Federal Register.

Carolyn Coutts (202) 447-8998

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## **USDA PROPOSES REVISIONS IN GRAIN-SCALE REGULATIONS**

WASHINGTON, March 25—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Federal Grain Inspection Service is proposing to incorporate into its grain inspection regulations all applicable requirements for grain-weighing



equipment from the National Institute of Standards and Technology 1990 Handbook 44 and Handbook 105-1.

Current FGIS regulations refer to requirements from the 1988 editions of the two handbooks. The proposal would simply update the regulations by changing all textual references to the handbooks to the 1990 editions.

FGIS Administrator John C. Foltz said the proposed changes are part of the agency's continuing review and update of its regulations, to ensure they serve their intended purposes and are consistent with FGIS policy and authority.

FGIS invites public comments on this proposal, which was published today in the Federal Register. Comments must be submitted no later than May 24 to Allen A. Atwood, Federal Grain Inspection Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Box 96454, Washington, D.C. 20090-6454. Telecopy users may send responses to (202) 447-4628.

Allen A. Atwood (202) 475-3428

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## **FGIS ESTABLISHES SEPARATE FEE FOR RAILROAD TRACK SCALE TESTS**

WASHINGTON, March 25—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Federal Grain Inspection Service announced today the establishment of a separate hourly rate for fees charged for testing railroad track scales used for the official weighing of grain. Currently, fees for such tests are based on the FGIS hourly rate for official inspection and weighing.

The new separate fee rate is \$44.00 per hour during regular work hours, and \$59.90 per hour on Sundays and holidays. The fees include official inspectors' transportation, per diem and travel costs, if any.

The separate fee will go into effect April 24, 30 days after publication today in the Federal Register.

"We are attempting to make the railroad track scale test program self-funding, as mandated by law," said FGIS Administrator John C. Foltz. "Our fees have not covered the costs of this special service for several years, making it necessary to establish a separate fee."

The U.S. Grain Standards Act authorizes FGIS to test all equipment used in the official inspection and weighing program.



For more information, contact Allen A. Atwood, Resources Management Division, Federal Grain Inspection Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250; telephone (202) 475-3428.

Allen Atwood (202) 475-3428

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## **USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET RICE PRICES**

WASHINGTON, March 26—Under Secretary of Agriculture Richard T. Crowder today announced the prevailing world market prices of milled rice, loan rate basis, as follows:

- long grain whole kernels, 9.66 cents per pound;
- medium grain whole kernels, 8.69 cents per pound;
- short grain whole kernels, 8.70 cents per pound;
- broken kernels, 4.83 cents per pound.

Based upon these prevailing world market prices for milled rice, rough rice world prices are estimated to be:

- long grain, \$5.92 per hundredweight;
- medium grain, \$5.35 per hundredweight;
- short grain, \$5.26 per hundredweight.

The prices announced are effective today at 3 p.m. EST. The next scheduled announcement will be made April 2 at 3 p.m. EST, although prices may be announced sooner if warranted.

Gene Rosera (202) 447-7923

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## **NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD VOLUNTEERS**

WASHINGTON, March 26—Ever wonder how a world-class research library works? If you have, there may be an opportunity to learn how...from the inside.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Library is the largest of its kind. And it has a recurring need for volunteers to work

in a number of interesting and fulfilling positions, according to Mary Silva, coordinator of NAL's volunteer program.

“We can use volunteers in just about all phases of library operations, from reshelving books to doing research to working with state-of-the-art computer technology,” Silva said.

With the Library of Congress and the National Library of Medicine, NAL is one of three national libraries of the United States. It maintains a collection of over two million volumes and receives 26,000 periodicals annually. NAL also is active in developing new electronic systems for managing information and is considered a leader in this type of technology, Silva said.

As part of its volunteer program, NAL provides volunteers with the training and resources needed to complete assignments. NAL staff also are available to give technical advice when questions arise.

“The staff works closely with NAL volunteers and relies on volunteer efforts in many NAL special projects,” Silva said. “Volunteers, who range from college students to retired people, are an important part of NAL.”

NAL attempts to match a volunteer's skills and interests with the needs of the library. In some instances, college credits can be earned by volunteers on certain NAL projects.

People interested in the NAL volunteer program should call Silva at (301) 344-4248, or write her at the National Agricultural Library, Room 200, 10301 Baltimore Blvd., Beltsville, Md. 20705-2351.

Applicants to NAL's volunteer program will receive consideration without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, disability or any other nonmerit factor.

Brian Norris (301) 344-3778

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## **USDA COMPUTER SYSTEM LISTS NATIONWIDE YOUTH INFORMATION**

WASHINGTON, March 27—The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced that a computerized service listing hundreds of sources of information on youth development is available from the National Agricultural Library, Beltsville, Md.

Known as the 4-H Professional Research and Knowledge Base (4HPRK), the service is a program of USDA's Extension Service and NAL's Youth Development Information Center (YDIC).

"It's not an agricultural database," said John Kane, YDIC coordinator. "It is concerned with the problems facing all youth today, not just rural youth. The emphasis is on youth-at-risk.

"For example, we recently developed for a client a bibliography of information on violence among minority youths in inner city areas," Kane said.

The 4HPRK database identifies and specifies articles, studies, audiovisuals and other materials on youth development throughout the United States. The database includes abstracts and information on where materials can be obtained. Many of the materials are available at NAL.

The 4HPRK database service is available free of charge Monday through Friday, between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m., EST. The YDIC can be reached at (301) 344-3719 during those times. The center's FAX number is (301) 344-5472.

Brian Norris (301) 344-3778

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## **EXTENSION SERVICE AWARDS GRANTS FOR FARMERS WITH DISABILITIES**

WASHINGTON, March 27—The U.S. Department of Agriculture has joined with the National Easter Seal Society and other private, non-profit disability organizations to establish education and assistance programs for farmers with disabilities.

The new partnership will work with farmers in 10 states and will begin April 1.

"This grant program enhances the Cooperative Extension System's comprehensive farm safety program which addresses prevention, emergency accident response and rehabilitation," said Myron D. Johnsrud, administrator of USDA's Extension Service.

The Extension Service has awarded between \$80,000 and \$115,000 to eight programs located in Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, New York, Wisconsin and Vermont. Montana, Idaho and Wyoming are sponsoring a joint project.



In addition, a national grant of \$150,000 has been awarded to Purdue University and the National Easter Seal Society to provide training and technical assistance for the programs.

Nationwide, more than 500,000 farmers, ranchers and other agricultural workers have physical disabilities that limit their ability to perform essential farm tasks.

Congress provided new funds for fiscal year 1991 as a stimulus to establish and enhance educational assistance to farmers with disabilities. Using a proposal review process, Extension selected projects that will benefit farm families affected by disability by increasing their awareness of services available, increasing their understanding of supportive technology, accomplishing home and worksite modifications, and establishing networks of volunteers to assist families.

The program will support cooperative efforts between the Cooperative Extension System and private, non-profit disability organizations.

“These partnerships are an opportunity to use the unique expertise and resources of Extension and these organizations to develop educational programs that will enable farmers with disabilities to continue to farm,” Johnsrud said.

Cathy Bridwell (202) 447-6084

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